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NSC BRIEFING

9 December 1959

GREECE

- I. Several recent acts by the Soviet Union have outraged the Greeks--Communists and their sympathizers excepted--and have rallied the people around the government in an unprecedented manner.
- A. Khrushchev, in 2 December speech in Budapest, extolled heroes of Communist uprising in Greece following World War II.
1. Premier Karamanlis retorted sharply with charges USSR interfering in Greek internal affairs, but there is evidence of some uneasiness in government circles over what is regarded as planned statement by Khrushchev rather than casual remark.
 2. Greek non-Communist press, in rare display unanimity, backed premier in his denunciation and pointed out development emphasized need be wary of Soviet peace moves.
- B. USSR, in mid-November, issued postage stamp honoring Manolis Glezos, imprisoned Greek Communist. Greeks have retaliated with stamp honoring Hungarian Imre Nagy.
- C. These two events have been used by Karamanlis to isolate pro-Communists in Greece and to discomfit nationalists who advocated rapprochement with the USSR during recent intensive bloc campaign to improve relations with Athens.

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- D. Greeks recently expelled a Soviet diplomat and warned Soviet Ambassador against certain "activities" in moves apparently aimed at countering Soviet subversive activities in Greece.
- II. These developments have created coolest Soviet-Greek relations since end of Greek Communist guerrilla activity of decade ago.
- A. Deteriorating economic situation in Greece, however, offers Soviet chance to recoup somewhat if they choose to do so. They could buy Greek agricultural surpluses.
 - B. However, Greek suspicious and irritation in any event likely to linger for some time.

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